



# Fact Sheet 2003/2004

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education

Three Capitol Mall Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 501/682-1500

★ <http://dwe.arkansas.gov> ★

## ★ MISSION ★

To provide leadership and contribute resources to serve the diverse and changing career and educational needs of the youth and adults of Arkansas.

## ★ HISTORY ★

Formerly a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, the Department of Workforce Education (DWE) was created in 1997 by Act 803.

That same act also created the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO), which has general supervision of career and technical education in Arkansas.

## ★ FUNDING ★

Adult Education .....	\$27,366,395
Career & Technical Education.....	\$35,805,354
Technical Institutes .....	\$9,820,443
Veterans Approving Agency .....	\$178,692
Federal Surplus Property .....	\$1,035,021
Governor's Dislocated Worker Task Force ...	\$489,168
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services .....	\$44,509,932
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$119,205,005</b>

## ★ ADMINISTRATION ★

**Director**..... Dr. Steve Franks

### Deputy Directors

Adult Education..... George French  
Career & Technical Education..... John Davidson

### Assoc. Directors

Finance..... Charles Brown  
Workforce Training..... Lee F. Griffith

### Commissioner

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services..... John C. Wyvill



## ★ ADULT EDUCATION ★

The following Adult Education programs are free to adults wanting to improve their basic educational skills:

**General Educational Development (GED)** programs provide a second chance to earn a high school diploma.

**Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE)** partners with business and industry to offer customized skills training for the local workforce.

**English as a Second Language (ESL)** classes help non-English-speaking adults transition into society.

**Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center** trains and supports adult education/literacy teachers and volunteers.

<b>Total adults served .....</b>	<b>57,540</b>
<b>Workplace programs .....</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>GED graduates .....</b>	<b>6,325</b>

(83.4% pass rate)

## ★ WORKFORCE TRAINING ★

Tailoring instruction to the local market needs, the following postsecondary **technical institutes** provide adult education and occupational and industry training:

**Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute/Forrest City**  
**Northwest Technical Institute/Springdale**  
**Riverside Vocational Technical School/Grady**

<b>Total students enrolled .....</b>	<b>10,957</b>
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**Secondary area technical centers** serve school districts in a 25-mile radius that do not have the resources to independently provide specific secondary career and technical education programs for their students.

<b>Centers .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>School districts served .....</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>Students enrolled .....</b>	<b>7,255</b>

DWE is a partner in the **Governor's Dislocated Worker Task Force**, which provides rapid response services—such as assessment and counseling, worker assistance workshops, job fairs, and mobile Career Resource Centers—to workers and communities impacted by plant closings and layoffs.

<b>Dislocated workers assisted .....</b>	<b>4,885</b>
<b>Companies assisted .....</b>	<b>38</b>

## ★ CAREER and TECHNICAL EDUCATION ★

**Career focuses/programs of study** prepare secondary students for work and/or college by offering specialized training and real-world work experience while reinforcing academic skills.

At the junior high level, **Career Orientation** gives students a broad-based understanding of the knowledge, skills, education, and abilities necessary to enter most career areas.

At the high school level, each school district must offer at least one career focus/program of study.

### Secondary Student Enrollment:

<b>Agriculture Science &amp; Technology</b> .....	<b>22,977</b>
<b>Business/Marketing Technology</b> .....	<b>88,280</b>
<b>Family &amp; Consumer Sciences</b> .....	<b>46,332</b>
<b>Technical &amp; Professional</b> .....	<b>26,480</b>
<b>Career Orientation</b> .....	<b>30,706</b>
<b>Principles of Technology</b> .....	<b>2,832</b>
<b>Workplace Readiness</b> .....	<b>2,804</b>

**High Schools that Work (HSTW)** is a Southern Regional Education Board initiative designed to improve career and technical education students' achievement levels in reading, math, and science. The HSTW program is based on the premise that all students can excel.

**Participating schools** ..... **26**

**Jobs for Arkansas' Graduates (JAG)** focuses on students who need extra help to successfully graduate from high school and move into meaningful employment, postsecondary education, or the military.

**Participating school districts** ..... **34**  
**Students assisted** ..... **882**

Employers work with DWE to provide more specific, real-world education and training to prepare students for postsecondary education and the workplace.

The following programs are a result of partnerships with employers:

**Banking on the Future** (*Banking & Finance*)  
**Project Lead the Way** (*Pre-engineering*)  
**The ExplorNet Project** (*Information Technology*)  
**Automotive Youth Education System** (*Automotive*)  
**Arkansas Hospitality Association** (*Hospitality & Tourism*)

**Apprenticeships** offer students and adults an opportunity to earn a certificate or degree in a specialized area and start their full-time careers with paid work experience.

**Participating secondary/postsecondary schools** ..... **40**  
**Participating employers** ..... **1,488**  
**Youth (high school) apprentices** ..... **631**  
**Traditional (adult) apprentices** ..... **5,014**

The **Tech-Prep Associate Degree Program** enables high school students to earn college credit by successfully completing courses approved by consortiums of secondary and postsecondary schools.

**Participating secondary/postsecondary schools** ..... **248/29**  
**Employers in program** ..... **254**  
**Students in program** ..... **24,073**

**Career and Technical Student Organizations** provide a unique program of career and leadership development, motivation, competition, and recognition for students enrolled in secondary/postsecondary career and technical education programs.

**DECA** (marketing) ..... **1,033**  
**FFA** (agriculture) ..... **13,030**  
**Family, Career, & Community Leaders of America** ..... **11,347**  
**Future Business Leaders of America/Phi Beta Lambda** ..... **16,681**  
**Health Occupations Students of America** ..... **1,109**  
**SkillsUSA** (professional & technical education) ..... **5,033**

## ★ OTHER PROGRAMS ★

**Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS)** provides comprehensive career and education programs for disabled Arkansans seeking successful, long-term employment. ARS also provides independent living services.

**ARS clients** ..... **21,456**

The **Arkansas Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program** offers financial incentives to Arkansans who successfully complete a postsecondary education program in a designated high-demand technical field and then work in that field.

**Participating postsecondary schools** ..... **49**  
**Students in program** ..... **1,350**

The **Federal Surplus Property Agency** acquires surplus property from the federal government and donates it to eligible recipients—such as educational, government, and non-profit organizations.

**Agencies served** ..... **1,828**  
**Value of property donated in FY 2003** ..... **\$11,673,024**

The **State Approving Agency for Veterans Training** approves and monitors educational and training programs for compliance with federal and state regulations so veterans and eligible recipients can receive educational benefits under the G.I. Bill.

**Eligible businesses/institutions** ..... **309**  
**Programs approved** ..... **2,786**